

Message Text

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51

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FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

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INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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SUMMARY: 16TH ANNIVERSARY OF DECLARATION OF REPUBLIC OF NIGER CELEBRATED DECEMBER 17 AND 18 THROUGHOUT NIGER. THE CEREMONIES IN NIAMEY WERE FESTIVE BUT UNOSTENTATIOUS. PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE TO NATION CONTAINED NO SURPRISES. FIRST RESULTS WERE RELEASED OF COMMISSION OF INQUIRY ESTABLISHED TO INVESTIGATE FINANCES OF 19 CABINET AND OTHER HIGH OFFICIALS OF FORMER REGIME. END SUMMARY.

1. THIS YEAR'S DAY-AND-HALF LONG FESTIVITIES WERE SIMILAR TO LAST YEAR'S SUBDUED PROGRAM. HORSE RACES, PRESENTATION OF ARMS, AWARDS OF DECORATIONS, TRADITIONAL DANCING, ATHLETIC GAMES AND EVENING RECEPTION WERE MAIN ACTIVITIES.

FIRST STONE OF SOUTH KOREAN-FINANCED CERAMICS FACTORY (COREE-NIGER) WAS LAID BY PRESIDENT AS PART OF CELEBRATIONS. (GON SAW NO INCONSISTENCIES

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IN CEREMONY DESPITE FULL SUPPORT NORTH KOREAN

RESOLUTION BY NIGER IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND RETURN
PREVIOUS DAY OF FOREIGN MINISTER FROM PYONGYANG.)

2. ALTHOUGH PRESIDENT TOLD AMBASSADOR (NIAMEY 4265)
THERE WOULD BE QUOTE SURPRISES UNQUOTE IN NATIONAL DAY
SPEECH, MESSAGE WAS BASICALLY AFFIRMATION OF PREVIOUSLY
ENUNCIATED POLICIES AND DECLARATIONS. HIGH POINTS
WERE ANNOUNCEMENT OF AUSTERITY BUDGET FOR 1975 CALLING
FOR CUTS IN ADMINISTRATIVE MOTOR POOL, REDUCTION IN
OFFICIAL CONSUMPTION OF GASOLINE, A FREEZE ON PUBLIC
SECTOR HIRING, LIMITING FOREIGN TRAVEL, AND STRICTER
ACCOUNTING PRACTICES. NEVERTHELESS, CIVIL
SERVANTS' SALARIES AND STUDENTS' SCHOLARSHIPS ARE TO BE
INCREASED. ALTHOUGH WASTEFUL EXPENDITURE ON PRESTIGE
PRODUCTS WAS CONDEMNED, A NEW AND LARGER MAISON DES
JEUNES AND NATIONAL STADIUM ARE PLANNED FOR NIAMEY.
COMMENTING ON FOOD SITUATION, PRESIDENT SAID THIS YEAR'S
GOOD RAINS, AIDED BY CLOUD SEEDING, DID NOT NECESSARILY
MARK END OF DROUGHT. GON WAS TAKING STEPS TO CREATE
EMERGENCY STOCKS AND HAD ASKED INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY
TO FURNISH 130,000 TONS OF GRAINS NEXT YEAR. PRESIDENT
CONFIRMED GON AND FRANCE HAD REACHED ACCORD IN PRINCIPLE
ON RAISING GON EQUITY PARTICIPATION IN SOMAIR, BUT HAD NOT
YET AGREED TO WHAT EXTENT. GON HAS MADE CLEAR,
PRESIDENT REITERATED, ITS RIGHT TO UNILATERALLY
DETERMINE PRICE FOR URANIUM.

3. MOST WIDELY DISCUSSED ASPECT OF REPUBLIC DAY 1974
WAS PUBLICATION OF FIRST RESULTS OF COMMISSION OF
INQUIRY AND CONTROL SET UP LAST APRIL TO INVESTIGATE
FORMER DIORI REGIME OFFICIALS. COMMISSION PRESIDENT,
CAPTAIN GABRIELLE CYRILLE REVEALED RESULTS OF
8 MONTHS STUDY ON 19 EX-MINISTERS AND OTHER HIGH OFFICIALS.
BASING DEFINITION OF CORRUPTION ON DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AND
INDIVIDUAL'S LEGAL INCOME AND HIS INVESTMENTS OVER PERIOD
1960-74 PLUS CALCULATION OF NON-PAYMENT OF TAXES, COMMISSION
FOUND PROVABLE CORRUPTION TOTALING ABOUT CFA 875 MILLION
(\$4.7 MILLION). FORMER SONARA DIRECTOR, MAITOURARE GADJO
LED LIST OWING OVER CFA 141 MILLION. OTHER
PARTICULARLY QUOTE CORRUPT UNQUOTE INDIVIDUALS
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WERE ISSA BOUBE, FORMER DIRECTOR OF PROTOCOL, COURMO
BARCOURGNE, A FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER, AND MOUDOUR ZAKARA,
FORMER FINANCE MINISTER. ALL NINETEEN HAD VILLAS, FARMS,
HERDS, BANK ACCOUNTS, ETC. CONFISCATED BY THE STATE.
PRESIDENT DIORI AND SEVERAL FORMER MINISTERS WERE NOT
MENTIONED IN THE REPORT.HECK

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